

# Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Minutes

5 March, 2014

Members Present: Ralph Sitzberger, Chair  
Leon Kukanich  
Charles Rayala, Jr.

Members Excused: Sig Hjemvick, Vice Chair  
Maynard Bedish

Others Present: Lawrence Stevens, CF, Forest Administrator  
John Gagnon, CF, Assistant Forest Administrator  
Dale Mayo, Recreation Administrator  
Jill Nemec, DNR Forestry Liaison  
Ken Anderson, Media  
Holly Tomlanovich, Sno-Eagles  
Dan Balog, Twp of Land O' Lakes  
Bill Picman, Bill Picman Jr.  
Ralph Koopman, Attorney for Picman

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Sitzberger, who advised that this was a public meeting and that notification of the meeting with the agenda was sent per the agenda. This notification was verified by the Forestry Department Administrator.

- 1) Motion by Rayala, second by Kukanich, to approve the agenda in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Correction to the February 5, 2014 minutes by Sitzberger wherein #3 indicates Rayala seconded the motion to adjourn into closed session. This should indicate Bedish seconded the motion. Correction so noted. Motion by Kukanich, second by Rayala, to approve the corrected minutes of February 5, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Tax Deed Parcel #6-1191: Stevens summarized the recent history of tax deed parcel #6-1191 culminating in the request by Marilyn Picman for Vilas County to vacate the judgment wherein ownership was acquired by Vilas County. Mr. Picman explained Marilyn Picman's absence at today's meeting and informed the Committee of the Picmans' reasons for nonpayment of the taxes on their former property. Sitzberger explained that Vilas County is setting up a policy for treatment of tax deed property redemption requests, and that nothing will be done with any of these properties until this policy is set. Sitzberger further explained that the Committee intended for Vilas County to retain ownership of this particular parcel for public access to Camp 12 Lake. Sitzberger directed that Stevens keep Mr. Picman advised as to the status of the policy. Sitzberger confirmed attorney Koopman's understanding that no vote will be taken at this time and the purpose of the policy will be to address the County's intended direction for requests to vacate judgments concerning tax deed properties.
- 4) Knowles-Nelson Acquisition: Sitzberger reviewed the acquisition of Parcels #8-1854-02 & #8-2233 via the awarded Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant and Resolution #2013-86. Corporation Counsel advised the acquisition of each parcel be accepted by the County Board. Stevens reviewed the current status of the two parcels wherein the representative

of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, Terry Hess, indicated the BCPL would accept the appraised value of \$95,100.00 for Parcel #8-2233 as indicated in the Resolution prepared for this meeting. The acquisition of Parcel #8-1854-02 is delayed. Stevens explained the K-N Grant reimburses the County for 50% of the cost of acquisition based on the appraised value. The Resolution for the acquisition of Parcel #8-2233 was presented. Motion by Rayala, second by Kukanich, to sign the resolution and pass it on to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5) Timber Sales Contracts/Forest Management: Gagnon gave his report, a copy of which is attached.
- 6) Snowmobile Program/Snowmobile Trail Safety Committee: Mayo gave an update. The Committee had previously been provided with a written report.
- 7) Fat Bikes: Questions concerning the issue of “fat tire” bicycles that were forwarded to the Snowmobile Safety Committee from the Vilas County Snowmobile Club Alliance were reviewed by Mayo, specifically in relation to the current County Ordinance. Discussion. Sitzberger directed Mayo to research how other County Forests are addressing this issue for the purpose of rewriting the Vilas County Ordinance. Tomlanovich informed the Committee of local research being conducted on trail use by fat bikes and will forward the results of the study to the Committee via Mayo. This item is to be placed on the April 2, 2014 meeting agenda. The issue of vehicles using snowmobile trails was also requested to be brought before the Snowmobile Safety Committee.
- 8) Chapter 16.12 of the County Ordinance: Discussion of the need to clarify the language that addresses where snowmobiles are allowed to travel on the County Forest. Sitzberger will speak to Corporation Counsel.
- 9) Tax Deed Property Redemptions: Statistics generated by Valkenaar for the purpose of aiding in the development of a policy for deciding requests to vacate judgments on County owned properties acquired by tax deed were distributed to the Committee. The statistics included reasons individuals used to request that judgments be vacated, the fair market value of the properties, and whether the properties were homesteads. Discussion. Sitzberger requested the comments sent to him regarding the policy development be sent to the Committee members.
- 10) Discussion of the 2013 Annual Report: Corrections were noted and clarification was given for several items. Stevens was directed to forward updated copies of the Report to the County Clerk to present at the March County Board Meeting.
- 11) Meetings: The Committee was reminded of the upcoming meetings of the County Forests Association and the Sustainable Forestry Conference.
- 12) Monthly Budget Summary was reviewed. It was pointed out the fuel invoice from the Highway Department for the month of February had not yet been received.
- 13) Next meeting date will be April 2, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Conference Rooms. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Minutes were transcribed by L. Stevens from recording and notes of Staff present at the meeting.